



CLEAN WATER ACTION

645 Farmington Ave, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06105 (860)232-6232

Written Testimony of Roger Smith, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
Wednesday March 5th, 2008

Testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5788

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SOLAR ROOF PROGRAM

Testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 572

AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON-FREE GENERATION

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. Clean Water Action is a non-profit organization which since 2002 has worked with citizens across the state to lead town-level 20% by 2010 clean energy initiatives.

Clean Water Action strongly supports the expansion of solar incentives to help us build an in-state solar industry. The CT Clean Energy Fund has a fast-growing solar photovoltaic (PV) rebate program which has supported over 300 solar installations since its recent inception. A range of municipalities are also considering solar PV, from Naugatuck to New Haven. The main barrier is a lack of funding to provide assistance to all those interested in solar systems.

Connecticut has the potential to be a world leader in solar electricity, rivaling New Jersey or California (on a proportional basis). Thanks to our geography and climate, Connecticut has better solar potential than world-leader Germany and could benefit significantly from new investments in distributed, peak-coincident, fuel-free solar PV. New investments in solar will create clean, green in-state jobs mounting, wiring, selling and maintaining these systems. These are jobs that can never be shipped out of state.

This bill takes a positive step forward by setting goals for the number of solar roofs in Connecticut by 2012. Working with the experts at the non-profit Vote Solar we have detailed a longer-term proposal to bring solar into the mainstream in Connecticut.

Key Elements of a Connecticut Solar Rooftops Program

1. Give the Industry Investment Certainty: Set Megawatt Goals and an End Date

Our neighbor Massachusetts announced in late January it will ramp up its solar initiatives dramatically, increasing from 4MW to 250MW by 2017¹. Connecticut needs to send similar long-term signals to draw more companies into the CT solar industry.

We propose a target of 5% of peak power from solar PV by 2020 which would put Connecticut on par with California as a leader in solar PV. This would work out to 280 megawatts of solar energy installed on approximately 100,000 roofs in every town across

¹ http://www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/news/clip_01_28_08.html

Roger Smith
Sincereley,

Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

Achievable Potential study for efficiency, which includes demand response activities. The most appropiate body to conduct a similar study for non-emitting renewable generation is the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, and we suggest directing them to work with their regional counterparts to create a renewable energy roadmap out to at least 2020.

Energy Conservation Management Board is currently working on a revised Maximum demand. Regarding load-shifting and load-shedding initiatives, it is our understanding that the We support increasing carbon-free Class I renewable generation and also measures to reduce

TESTIMONY REGARDING RAISED BILL NO. 572 ACT CONCERNING CARBON-FREE GENERATION

The Clean Energy Fund should also help support green jobs" workforce training
3. Encourage Collaboration and Coordination between entities
The Clean Energy Fund will administer the initiative described above has the potential to create programs. The Connecticut Solar Roof Initiative described above has the potential to create 3,600 local job-years. The CCF should be directed to use their national connections and considerably solar expertise to identify curricula to help train the solar workforce we will need. CCF should make sure these resources are available for community colleges, vocational schools and job-training programs for disadvantaged youth. The CCF can help provide these institutions with access to the panels to train on, and close the loop by helping to connect educators with the companies who will need to hire more trained installers.

is using its energy investments wisely and moving towards buildings which draw little to no peak power from the grid.
Rootop Initiative should be coordinated with the Energy Efficiency Fund, ensuring that the state to a reasonable payback term and begin to decline starting in year two. The Connecticut Solar to drive down prices. The knowledge that next year's rebate will be less rich than this year's is a maximize the effectiveness of ratepayer investments by encouraging competitive market forces now and not later. This model is working well in California, which has the nation's strongest great motivator for customers to buy systems now and a reason for companies to sell systems solar programs but where rebate prices are far lower than in Connecticut and are dropping.

Each year, as solar production increases world-wide, panel prices decline. As solar installation companies gain experience and become streamlined, experienced entities, installation costs drop. Connecticut should set up a program that will push the solar industry to find efficiencies by offering a declining subsidy that will end with solar at grid parity by 2020. This will maximize the effectiveness of ratepayer investments by encouraging competitive market forces

2. Fund the Program through a steadily declining rebate
Connecticut would serve as a hedge against increasing fossil fuel prices, reduce the need for peak generation and transmission capacity, and help Connecticut attain its ozone smog commitments by producing zero emissions power at peak times. An investment of an average of \$.70 per month for residential ratepayers could accomplish this.

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